

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Sub a¹ 7

1. A plastic molded container comprising:

a bowl comprising an upper rim, a bottom and a sidewall extending between the upper rim and the bottom, the sidewall extending radially outwardly before extending radially inwardly as the sidewall extends downward between the upper rim and the bottom to provide a bulging sidewall.

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Sub a² 1

2. The plastic molded container of claim 1 further comprising a plurality of feet unitarily formed along the bottom as deformations of the bottom.

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3. The plastic molded container of claim 1 wherein immediately below the upper rim the sidewall extends radially inwardly to form a substantially flat gripping surface that extends radially inwardly at an angle below the upper rim before the sidewall extends radially outwardly before extending radially inwardly again as the sidewall extends downward towards the bottom.

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4. The plastic molded container of claim 2 wherein the plurality of feet comprises at least three feet.

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5. The plastic molded container of claim 4 wherein the three feet comprises a first foot that extends along a radius of the bowl as viewed from the bottom thereof, and a second foot and a third foot which extend in opposite directions and perpendicular to the radius along which the first foot extends.

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Sub a⁴ 2

6. The plastic molded container of claim 2 wherein the plurality of feet comprises at least four feet.

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7. The plastic molded container of claim 6 wherein the four feet comprise a first pair of feet disposed on one side of a diameter of the bowl as viewed from the bottom thereof and a second pair of feet disposed on an opposing side of said diameter from the first feet.

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8. The plastic molded container of claim 7 wherein the first pair of feet are disposed parallel to one another and the second pair of feet are disposed parallel to one another.

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9. The plastic molded container of claim 6 wherein the four feet comprise a first pair of feet disposed along a diameter of the bowl as viewed from the bottom thereof and a second pair of feet disposed on opposing sides of the diameter along which the first pair of feet are disposed.

5 10. The plastic molded container of claim 9 wherein the second pair of feet are colinear.

11. The plastic molded container of claim 5 wherein the radius is a mold line.

12. The plastic molded container of claim 7 wherein the diameter is a mold line.

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13. The plastic molded container of claim 1 further comprising a lid securable to the

upper rim.

14. The plastic molded container of claim 13 wherein the lid is rotatably securable to the

rim.

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15. The plastic molded container of claim 1 wherein each foot is elongated and tapered from a front end facing towards an outer periphery of the bowl to a rear end facing towards a central axis of the bowl.

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16. The plastic molded container of claim 1 wherein the container is molded from a plastic comprising at least one of the group consisting of polyvinylchloride, polyethyleneterephthalate, high density polyethylene, polycarbonate, polystyrene and polypropylene.

25 17. The plastic molded container of claim 1 wherein the container is blow-molded from a single layer plastic.

18. The plastic molded container of claim 1 wherein the container is blow-molded from a multi-layer plastic.

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19. The plastic molded container of claim 18 wherein said multi-layer plastic further comprises at least one gas barrier layer selected from the group consisting of polyvinylidenechloride, nylon, and ethylenevinylalcohol copolymer.

20. The plastic molded container of claim 1 wherein the container has a diameter and a height, the diameter being greater than the height.

21. A method of forming a plastic container comprising the steps of:
5 providing two mold halves, each mold half having a cavity defining one-half of the container comprising a bowl comprising an upper rim, a bottom and a sidewall extending between the upper rim and the bottom, the sidewall extending radially outwardly before extending radially inwardly as the sidewall extends downward between the upper rim and the bottom to provide a bulging sidewall;
abutting the two mold halves together;
10 blowing plastic material into the abutted mold halves under blow molding conditions;
separating the mold halves; and
extracting the resultant container.

22. A method of hot-filling a container, comprising the steps of:
15 providing a plastic container comprising a bowl comprising an upper rim, a bottom and a sidewall extending between the upper rim and the bottom, the sidewall extending radially outwardly before extending radially inwardly as the sidewall extends downward between the upper rim and the bottom to provide a bulging sidewall;
positioning the container within a receptacle;
20 filling the container with material under hot filling conditions;
sealing the container with a suitable seal member; and
securing a lid on the container.

23. A method of retorting material disposed within a container, comprising the steps of:
25 providing a plastic container comprising a bowl comprising an upper rim, a bottom and a sidewall extending between the upper rim and the bottom, the sidewall extending radially outwardly before extending radially inwardly as the sidewall extends downward between the upper rim and the bottom to provide a bulging sidewall;
positioning the container within a receptacle;
30 filling the container with material under ambient or near ambient conditions;
securing a lid on the container;
sealing the container with a suitable seal member;
heating the container, material, lid and seal member.

add a⁷
add B⁷